

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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March 24, 2010

The Honorable Thomas Gaffey
Legislative Office Building
Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Gaffey:

I would like to address SB456An Act Concerning Student Athletes and Concussions.

First I would like to apologize for not appearing at the formal hearing, but unfortunately I first heard about the bill through new reports about the hearing having occurred.

Obviously, since by definition a concussion is not a lethal injury, this is a little out of my area of expertise. However, I am the dedicated (fanatical?) father of a two varsity sport student athlete and a volunteer referee for track and field.

Our school has an aggressive and enlightened policy toward student concussions, despite this, one of my sons teammates has suffered severely and shown a very sad degradation in the quality of his athletic performance. I find this most tragic and fear that it will have effects on this fine young man long beyond the end of the basketball season.

I believe it is vitally important to raise the standard of awareness and professionalism concerning and dealing with concussions in order to prevent these problems. I therefore strongly support your bill. I realize that bills of this nature are often opposed on financial grounds. I firmly believe that whatever expenditures would be associated with implementing this bill would far exceed the value of what could be accomplished, in other words "a serious bang for the buck."

Please feel free to share my opinions with any of your colleagues and if I can be of any further assistance on this issue please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Wayne Carver II", written over a horizontal line.

H. Wayne Carver II, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER